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EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

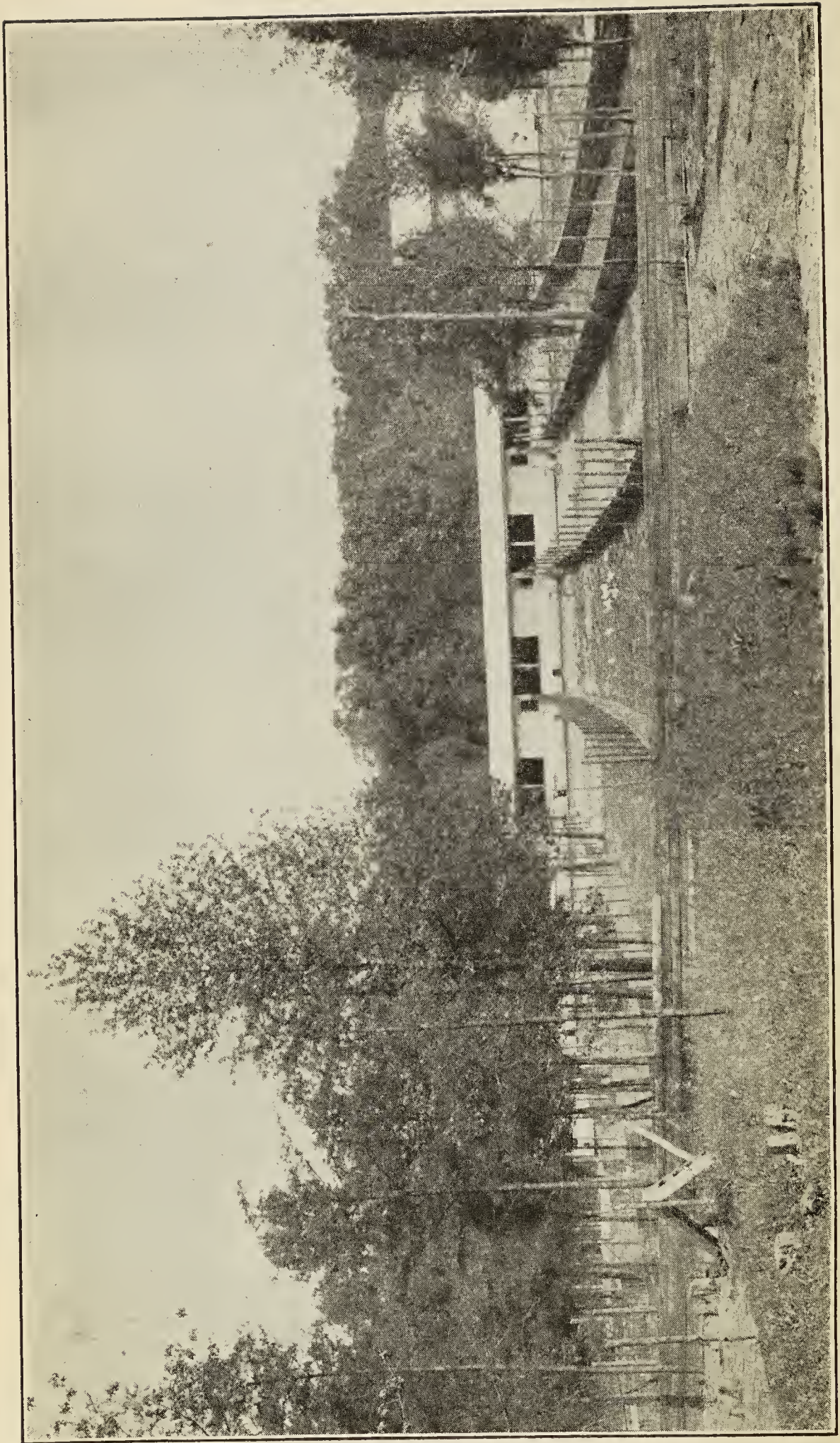
POULTRY EXHIBIT

of the

U. S. Department of Agriculture

AT THE EXHIBITION OF THE NEW YORK
POULTRY AND PIGEON ASSOCIATION
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 28, 1916, TO JANUARY 3, 1917





Long Poultry House at Government Poultry Farm, Beltsville, Md.

Poultry Exhibit of the United States

Department of Agriculture

THE poultry exhibit of the United States Department of Agriculture at the Madison Square Garden Poultry Show is for the purpose of bringing to the attention of poultry breeders in a concrete way its practical and experimental work which is of interest to them.

Two units or pens of a large laying house are shown in one of the models here exhibited. One of these pens is finished and the other left unfinished to show the framing. This house could be extended to any length desired by adding additional pens or units. Each pen is 18 feet square and has a capacity of about 75 hens. The house from which this model was made has been in use for about five years and has given good satisfaction.

In the model of a small house 14 feet wide six pens are shown, four finished and two unfinished. Each pen is only 6 feet wide, as this house is designed especially for breeding pens where the matings are small. If this style of house were to be used as a commercial laying house, most of the partitions would be removed.

The colony house, 7 by 10 feet, of which a model is shown, is built on runners and can be moved from place to place by a team, as desired. Attention is called to the framing and bracing in this house designed to prevent its racking when moved. This style of colony house is suited especially for flocks on free range. It will accommodate a flock of 30 hens.

The small colony house, 5 by 6 feet, like the large one, is built on runners and is braced strongly to prevent damage when being moved. This house is used primarily as a coop for growing chickens. It is large enough to accommodate about 50 chickens at the time they are first able to do without artificial heat or are weaned by the hens. As the chickens approach their full growth, this house will accommodate from 25 to 30.

Poultry Exhibit of the United States Department of Agriculture

A third colony house, designed for use with a colony stove brooder, is 10 feet square and is likewise built on runners. While it is heavier than the other colony house, it can be moved readily a short distance with a good team. As used on the Government poultry farm at Beltsville, Md., from 300 to 400 chickens are assigned to one of these houses.

EQUIPMENT.

The brood coop for a hen and chicks, shown in full size, is so constructed that the hen can be confined while the chicks are allowed their freedom. If desired, a small inclosed run can be used in connection with this coop to allow the hen an opportunity for exercise. The coop is equipped with a wire-covered door, which is shut at night, and while allowing ventilation keeps out prowling animals.

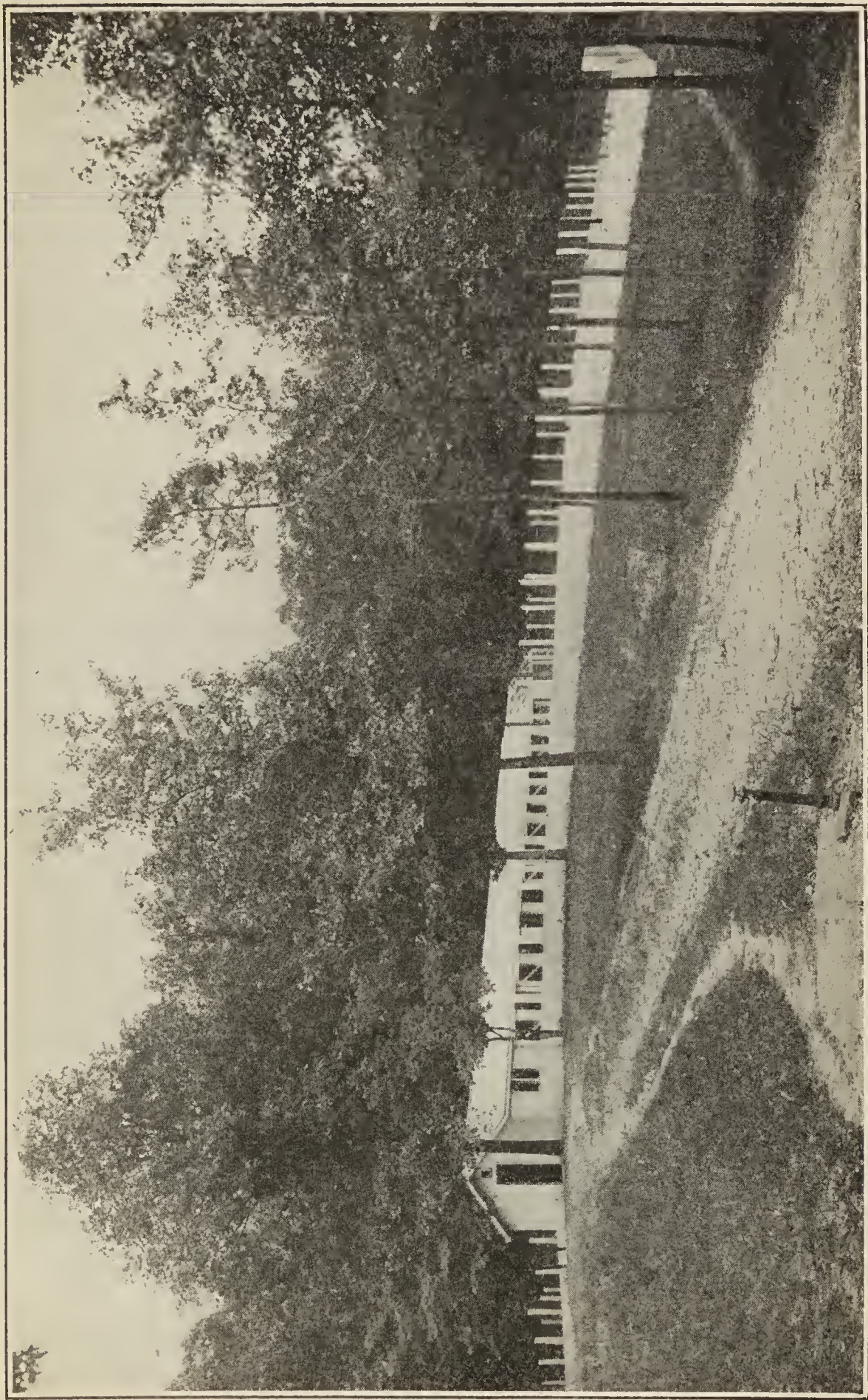
The trap nests included in the exhibit, shown in full size and in working order, are the kind installed at the Government poultry farm, where they have been in constant and satisfactory use for four years. Their simplicity and the ease with which they can be constructed commend them to poultrymen. Visitors are invited to work the nests and test their reliability. These nests are not patented and may be made by anyone.

Two dry-mash hoppers are shown in model. The first is a large hopper for use on range with growing chickens. It is large enough to allow at least 20 chickens to eat at one time and holds three or four bags of feed. It is so constructed that the feed is protected absolutely from the rain and the waste is reduced to a minimum. The value of such a hopper is great, and it insures a constant growth. The other is a small hopper designed for use in feeding dry mash to laying hens. It is used inside the house and is hung against the wall.

The fattening battery, shown in miniature, is composed of a series of coops built together in such a way that the chickens may be confined in them and easily fed and cared for. In this way the chickens can be fattened for market in a short time. Such a fattening battery could well be used on many farms where broilers are to be sent to market. Two weeks is the most profitable period in which to fatten broilers.

The wire-covered frame, of which a model is shown, is intended for use where chickens of different sizes are allowed to run together. The frame is so constructed as to allow the small

Poultry Exhibit of the United States Department of Agriculture



Breeding House at the Government Poultry Farm. A Model of this House is on Exhibition.

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chickens to get under it while the larger ones, because of their size, are prevented from doing so. By placing the feed for the smaller chickens under the frame they are protected from the trampling of the larger ones and are able to get their share.

These houses and other equipment are not presented in any sense as the best or the only good types. They are shown simply as those which have been in actual use for some time at the Government poultry farm with good results.

EGG EXHIBITS.

At the egg-candling table fresh eggs and both fertile and infertile eggs which have been subjected to incubation temperatures for various periods are shown, both as they appear before the candle and as they appear when broken out into a saucer. It is of special interest to observe the development of the blood vessels and the beating of the heart in the fertile eggs which have been broken out. This exhibit shows very clearly the superior keeping qualities of the infertile over the fertile egg, as no blood can develop in the former.

The exhibit of several dozen hens' eggs, graded according to size, color, and cleanliness, affords an opportunity to compare eggs of different color and of different size, and also to compare those of uniform color with those of mixed color. The influence which these factors have on the attractive appearance of the eggs is very noticeable. It pays to grade eggs for color, size, and cleanliness.

POULTRY PICTURES AND FEATHER CARDS.

Many breeds and varieties of chickens and water-fowls are shown in the large collection of colored pictures hung on the wall back of the exhibit. These are bromide enlargements made from photographs of actual birds and carefully colored. Persons wishing to become acquainted with the appearance of good specimens of the different breeds should find these pictures helpful. The bromides are supplemented by transparencies which include turkeys and ostriches.

The feather cards or charts, on which feathers from the different parts of fine exhibition specimens of chickens have been mounted, are of great value in showing the distinctive colors and markings of different breeds and varieties.

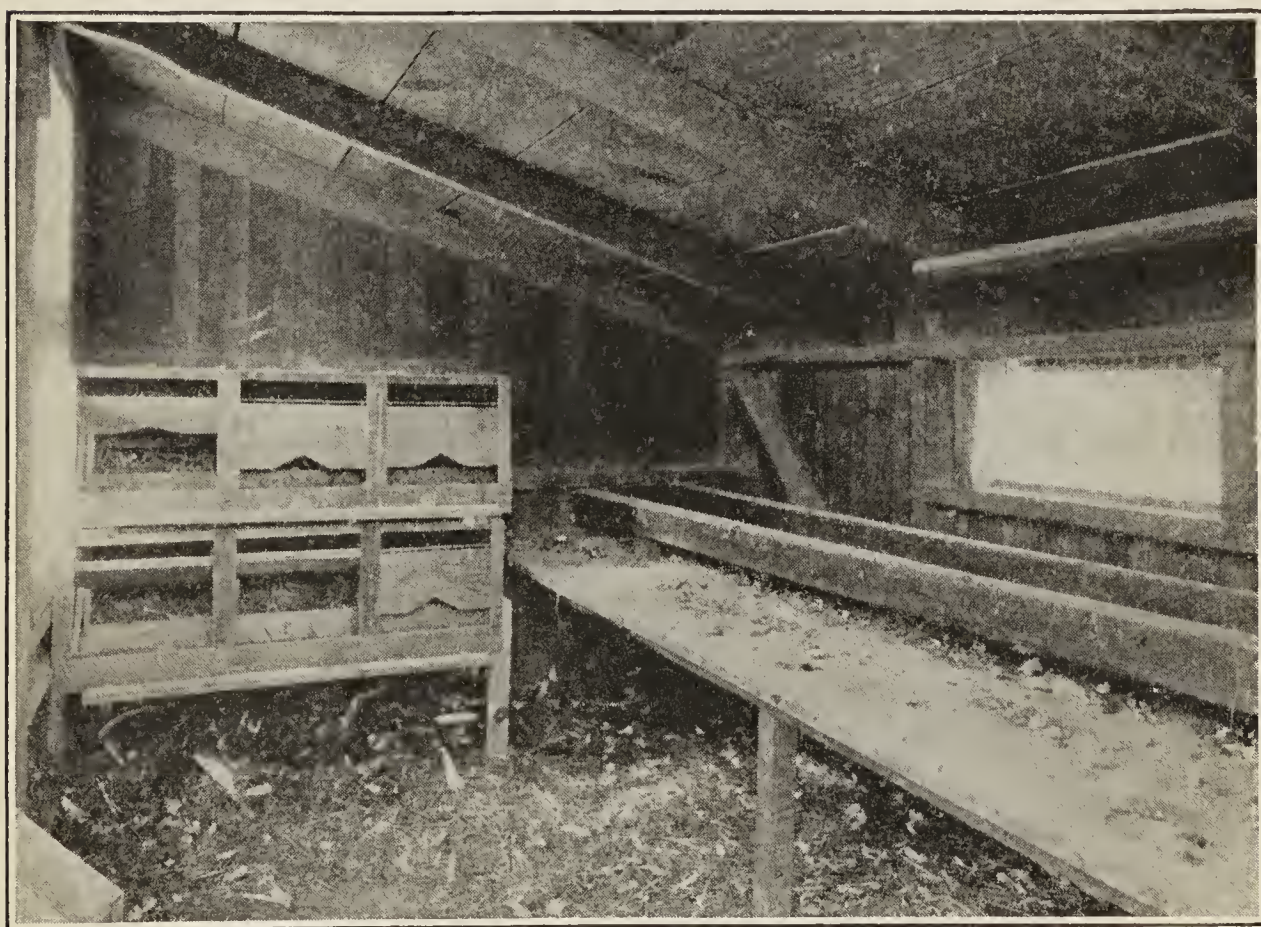
Poultry Exhibit of the United States Department of Agriculture

LIVE BIRDS.

The live birds in the exhibit were all bred on the Government poultry farm. They are not competitors for any prizes, but are exhibited to show the quality of the stock which is being used in the experimental work both in the feeding and breeding pens. Some birds exhibited which show fine qualities are the offspring of high producers, and tend to indicate that it is possible to combine utility and standard breeding to a practical degree. Further details concerning the breeding of these fowls will be found on the placards attached to the coops.

MOTION PICTURES.

Motion-picture films illustrating the work at the Government poultry farm will be exhibited in another part of the show.



Interior of Poultry House Equipped with Trap Nests. Models of this House and the Trap Nests are on Exhibition.

